

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 FEBRUARY 1987

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi aircraft attacked Tehran and Tabriz 12 February, inflicting civilian casualties and damaging houses, IRNA announced. The raids followed an Iranian missile attack on Baghdad the previous evening which IRNA said was in retaliation for Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities 11 February. A military spokesman cited by INA said the projectile hit a residential area in the Iraqi capital, killing "a number" of civilians.

Although INA reported that the 11 February Iraqi attacks on Iran included raids on Tehran, IRNA said that Iraqi aircraft violated Tehran's airspace but failed to carry out any bombing mission because of anti-aircraft fire. However, a military communique cited by IRNA stated that "scores" of civilians were killed or wounded in Iraqi raids on nine other Iranian cities. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio said the targets included Qazvin, a northern city that has not previously been attacked. An Iraqi military official warned that Iraq's raids on Iranian cities will only stop if Iran stops shelling Iraqi cities and if it agrees to negotiate, WAKH reported. Iranian shelling of Basra 11 February killed 9 civilians and wounded 41, according to a communique carried by Voice of the Masses.

On the situation at the battlefronts, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA denied Iran's claim to have infiltrated 70 km inside Iraq, stressing that no major battle has taken place in recent days. An Iranian communique broadcast by Tehran radio asserted that Revolution Guards and Iraqi Kurdish forces allied with Iran penetrated 70 km inside northern Iraq in a guerrilla operation that began early 11 February. The attackers reportedly inflicted over 1,000 casualties in operations over a 300 sq km area, destroying Iraqi radar installations at Irbil and striking at Iraqi positions in the Rawanduz area.

Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i commented on the course of the war in a revolution anniversary speech broadcast by Tehran radio, predicting "greater triumphs" in the Karbala-5 operations and stressing that Iran must utilize its "huge popular mobilization" to inflict the "final blow." He added that Iran is "not announcing the time of the final blow," but expressed hope that Iran will be able to celebrate victory before the next anniversary of the 1979 revolution. Khamene'i also commented on policy toward the United States, asserting that the latter was "mistaken" to search for "moderate" elements in the Iranian Administration because "there are no moderates among our country's officials" and all adhere to the path of Islam and Imam Khomeini. Even if there were moderate elements who wanted to establish friendly relations with the United States, they would have been opposed by the people, who still regard America as Iran's greatest enemy, the president added.

Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani likewise discussed the U.S.-Iran affair in remarks reported by the radio, claiming that "a few days ago these people once again contacted

us" through a third party. The latter gave the Iranians a telephone number that he said could be used to speak directly to President Reagan. Regarding Robert McFarlane's mission to Iran, the Majlis speaker stated that McFarlane and his group offered to stay in Iran as hostages in return for the release of U.S. hostages in Lebanon, according to IRNA.

Lebanon

Israeli warplanes attacked "terrorist" targets in the Sidon area 12 February, the IDF spokesman announced in a statement reported by Jerusalem radio. The targets were command posts on the outskirts of the Al-Miyah wa Miyah refugee camp. AFP said the attack destroyed a building housing Fatah offices, and Beirut radio disclosed that one Palestinian was killed and six wounded.

As for the hostage crisis, Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and other officials in Jerusalem denied reports that negotiations for an exchange are under way. *The Jerusalem Post* reported, noting Peres' statement that talk of a swap is "premature and unfounded." In contrast, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri told journalists in Damascus that there are "positive signs" for implementing an exchange, according to Beirut radio. On the camps war, Birri reaffirmed Amal's intention to end its siege if the Palestinians withdraw completely inside the refugee camps. The pro-Amal Voice of National Resistance radio said that no provisions have been allowed into Burj al-Barajinah because the Palestinians have still not fully withdrawn from Maghdushah. Various appeals for assistance to the Palestinians included a cable from Colonel Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, reported by JANA. The Libyan leader urged Al-Asad to "intervene personally" to save the lives of thousands of Palestinians who are facing death in Burj al-Barajinah as a result of Amal's siege.

Jordan-Syria

In a cable to President Hafiz al-Asad cited by Amman radio, King Husayn termed the Damascus talks a "landmark" in their continuing consultations. Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, who accompanied the king, stated that the talks between the two leaders centered on the situation in Lebanon, the radio reported.

Israel

A youth was wounded by gunfire as security forces in the Gaza Strip acted to disperse demonstrations protesting activities against Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Jerusalem radio reported. According to the radio, 30 students of the Islamic College in Hebron were arrested on suspicion of participating in riots. Al-Awdah College in Nabulus was ordered closed for 2 weeks, IDF radio reported, noting that Al-Najah University was also closed down recently.

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Text of Najibullah DIE ZEIT Interview
 DW121041 Hamburg DIE ZEIT in German
 13 Feb 87 pp 3, 4

[Interview with PDPA Central Committee General Secretary Najib by editor Christian Schmidt-Haeuer in Kabul; no date given]

[Text] *Die Zeit*: You announced a program of national reconciliation and a government of national unity. Could you briefly explain those goals?

Najib: Our goals are to end the undeclared war, the bloodshed, and fratricide; ensure national peace; and create favorable conditions to build a new society. We want to prepare the practical bases to build the country and implement the national unity of the Afghan people.

Die Zeit: The resistance fighters have rejected both national reconciliation and a cease-fire. How will your policy deal with that rejection?

Najib: We will continue our policy on the announced course, because the policy of reconciliation constitutes the answer to the wishes of all the peoples in our country. As for the opposition leaders, many differences have come up among them, and the radicals among them are increasingly isolated. They are losing the support of the people's masses. The people reject the war, which was forced upon us by our enemies.

Die Zeit: What successes has the cease-fire yielded so far?

Najib: The solemn approval of people throughout the country; the fact that many groups — out of a total of 10,000 armed opponents — have joined the process of national reconciliation; the return of more than 20,000 compatriots, despite the obstacles created by the Pakistani Government and the radical leaders; and the unprecedented enthusiasm prevalent in all refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran about their return home are all practical results of national reconciliation and the cease-fire in our country. That process is continuing triumphantly.

Die Zeit: In the last few days there have been a number of bomb attacks on the country's big cities. Selective assassination attempts have been made on representatives of the commissions for national reconciliation. Are they not setbacks to your effort to bring about national reconciliation?

Najib: Such crimes do not jeopardize the policy of national reconciliation, but only the policy of the opposition. It has become quite clear that those people use terror. They have not rendered themselves or those gentlemen who support them a good service, because they have shown that their deeds are also part of their accomplices' deeds.

Die Zeit: The mujahidin are at variance, but agree on one thing: They do not want a cease-fire without the unconditional withdrawal of Soviet troops, and they do not accept you personally as an interlocutor because they only see you as Moscow's man. Does that not show how difficult it will be for you to be generally recognized?

Najib: The irresponsible approach by some groups of radicals to vital problems of our society such as national reconciliation demonstrates their instability and political immaturity. And of course the Reagan administration's adventurous and aggressive

policy, which the radical parties follow blindly, constitutes the main obstacle on our road toward implementing the policy of national reconciliation.

Die Zeit: Previously you called the resistance groups "gangsters" and "criminals." Today you are talking about "armed opposition groups." What has changed?

Najib: The terms that are currently being used by the mass media are defined by the Supreme Extraordinary Commission for National Reconciliation. In our view that is natural. It shows that the process of national reconciliation influences all sections of Afghan society.

Die Zeit: I have seen here in Kabul that hundreds of political prisoners have been released. Does that demonstration of your policy not also entail risks? Will some prisoners not strengthen the ranks of the opposition groups again?

Najib: Our attitude to that problem is determined by our optimism and by our democratic and humane position. What we are doing is of an educational and at the same time humanitarian nature. At the same time our attitude is determined by the power of the state and the party. We are not afraid, even if some people rejoin the opposition forces.

Die Zeit: You advocate national reconciliation, but you also say that reconciliation will "absolutely never mean defeat of the party." So, is that reconciliation — where the ruling state party will continue to govern forever? Or could what Afghanistan's ambassador to India said happen eventually? He said that if the opposition groups accept a cease-fire the PDPA would hold elections and would resign if it were defeated.

Najib: Your question is based on an entirely Utopian idea. Answering it would be totally unrealistic.

Die Zeit: What should a future government of national unity really look like? Do you also want to admit members or followers of the former royal cabinet?

Najib: It is not necessary to have a special mechanism. Currently we have four ministers who were also in the former governments. We will continue that course.

Die Zeit: Do you also want to include men returning from exile?

Najib: Briefly, we welcome anybody having the knowledge and the ability to contribute to peace in our country.

Die Zeit: How about the reconstruction in your own party? There have been rumors time and again about continuing power struggles, putsch plans, and differences.

Najib: Your question does not make clear what you mean. I should break it down. First: In our view, the reconstruction of our party work is satisfactory. Believe me, reconciliation is a difficult problem. The fact that we resolutely pursue it nevertheless, is the result and proof of the reconstruction of our work. Second, as for the rumors, I think that the more honest a journalist is, the more honestly and carefully he has to approach his sources of information.

Die Zeit: Well, quite honestly: Are there groups in the party who disagree with your offer of a cease-fire and for an early

withdrawal of Soviet troops, because they believe that in that case you will not be able to stay in power for long?

Najib: Before coming to the point, I would like to ask you whether your remark is a question or a statement. You know, don't you, that it is already difficult enough to bring about peace in a family. We have decided to bring about peace in a large country that is still at war. That is a hundred times more difficult, to be sure. We have started tackling that task. Of course, there are different views. That is further evidence of our people's attention to our policy.

That emphasis concerns the psychological sphere. [as published] Our policy is known to you. All our people are working for reconciliation and are joining in the struggle to soon achieve peace. Once the people have achieved that goal and are aware of their strength, the problem of whether or not the people will in the future determine their fate on their own will automatically be resolved. Our policy is based on the conviction that if they are strong, all the peoples of this earth can resolve their internal problems unless hostile foreign forces hinder their development.

Die Zeit: Many pious Muslims consider communists godless. Now Afghanistan is to become the first communist country where Islam is the country's official religion. How many people will you be able to persuade to accept that?

Najib: To begin with, we will have to formulate your question more precisely and add a few things. Never has Afghanistan been a communist country, nor is it an issue now. We have proclaimed in our documents that Afghanistan is an independent country and an active member of the Nonaligned Movement and will remain so.

Regarding our relations with Islam: You know that our people are Muslims. The absolute majority of PDPA members are Muslims. We have always respected Islam. Islam is the religion of the absolute majority of our people.

Die Zeit: In your speech on national reconciliation you called on God. People say that as a young man you were a faithful Muslim and turned to communism later. What was the reason for that decision?

Najib: Praying to God is a tradition of our people. Regarding my own belief, I would like to make it quite clear that I am a son of my Muslim people.

Die Zeit: A new round of Geneva talks is scheduled to resume before long. Do you see any chance of Afghanistan and Pakistan agreeing on a compromise?

Najib: The Geneva talks have led to substantial positive progress. We are optimistic about the ultimate success of the talks, which will be resumed in a few days between the DRA's and Pakistan's representatives.

Die Zeit: Are you under the impression that Pakistan is more ready for compromise today than it was previously?

Najib: I would very much like to believe that.

Die Zeit: You addressed the issue earlier, but let me just put it more precisely once again, and do not hesitate to give a long answer, if you like. Regarding the Afghanistan conflict, how do you...

Najib: ...the situation around Afghanistan ...

Die Zeit: ...assess the U.S. Administration's role in the current efforts for a settlement?

Najib: You invited me to give a long answer, but I will be brief: negatively.

Die Zeit: How about relations between Afghanistan and the Federal Republic?

Najib: Basically I would say that if the foundation of relations is okay, we can continue to build on it. For our part, we have shown goodwill. But an Afghan proverb says that you cannot applaud with one hand. We hope that the Federal Republic will also extend its hand. Regrettably I must say that the Federal Government supports our enemies more than our government. The relations between our peoples will deepen further. The Afghan people are committed to all those peoples who have contributed to or maintained friendly relations with them.

Die Zeit: How long will the war, which has cost so much blood, last?

Najib: I think you had better ask that question of the other side — the Reagan administration, its allies, and the reactionary forces in this region. As for us, we have ceased fire.

Sikh Priests Decide To Excommunicate Punjab Chief*BK111251 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Feb 87*

[Text] Agency reports from Amritsar say that the Sikh priests this afternoon decided to excommunicate the Punjab chief minister and president of the ruling Akali Dal, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, from the Sikh panth [community].

Announcing the decision the acting Akal Takht [highest Sikh religious seat] chief, Professor Darshan Singh, said the explanation sent by Mr Barnala through an emissary has not been found satisfactory.

Immediately after the news of the decision of the Sikh priests was received in Chandigarh, a large number of people started gathering at Barnala's residence to extend support to him.

Barnala Requests Reconsideration*BK111619 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 11 Feb 87*

[Text] The ruling Akali Dal has summoned a Sikh convention in Longowal village on the 20th of this month. Stating this before a gathering in Chandigarh this afternoon, the party president and chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, said the convention will discuss problems facing the party and the Sikh panth.

Mr Barnala read out the letter he had written to the Sikh head priests. In it the chief minister denied all the allegations made against him by the head priests. He also urged the Akal Takht head priest, Professor Darshan Singh, to reconsider the decision excommunicating him from the Sikh panth.

Mr Barnala said we are always for the unity based on the principles, but the haste exercised by the head priests has caused many misgivings in the minds of the people. Mr Barnala questioned as to how unity could be brought about without consultations between parties having wide differences on basic issues. He said while our party has full faith in the electoral process, the others boycotted the last assembly elections. We are following the path of national unity, integrity, humanity, and brotherhood as shown by Saint Longowal. He said his party strongly opposes extremism and separatism, while others champion the cause. He alleged that some forces have been at work to dislodge the constitutionally elected Akali government. In the present circumstances nothing should be done which may give an impression that high priests are acting under the influence of such forces.

Clarifying the position, he repeated his requests to the high priests to review the whole situation. He said he very much wanted to personally present himself before the Akal Takht. But because of telephonic threats, and presence of certain undesirable elements inside the Golden Temple complex, the party workers did not permit him to (do so).

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Barnala said the high priests have dictated their decision to excommunicate him even before receiving his letter, which was delivered well in time. This information was given to him by the emissary, who had taken his letter to

Amritsar. He said sometimes vested interests take cover of religion to achieve their political ends.

In reply to a question, Mr Barnala said he does not foresee any threat to his government following the verdict. He denied there was any proposal to reshuffle his ministry. He categorically stated that Shiromani Akali Dal is very much in existence and will continue to exist. We have the highest regards for the Akal Takht and the Sikh high priests. We do not want any confrontation.

The state finance minister, Mr Balwant Singh, who was present at the news conference said he is still in favor of finding a solution to the crisis. He said there is no revolt in the party and he stands by the chief minister. He said all right thinking people should help in this task.

The president of the Akali Dal, Master Tara Singh group, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, has criticized the decision to excommunicate Mr Barnala. In a statement in New Delhi, he said the decision of the high priests is against democratic and secular principles. This is also against the religious traditions of the Sikhs and the teachings of the gurus.

Jathedar Rachpal Singh regretted that the sanctity and honor of the Akal Takht has been maligned by the action of the priests.

Sikh Head Priest Rejects Appeal*BK120320 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Feb 87*

[Excerpts] The head priest of Akal Takht, Professor Darshan Singh, has said that there is no scope to reconsider the edict by the five head priests excommunicating the Punjab chief minister, Mr Barnala. He was commenting on the request of Mr Barnala for reconsidering the excommunication order. Professor Darshan Singh told *Press Trust of India* that if Mr Barnala was sincere he should have resigned before asking for reconsideration.

The ruling Akali Dal has summoned a Sikh convention in Longowal village on the 20th of this month. [passage omitted]

The five head priests also declared the president of the Master Tara Singh faction of Akali Dal, Jathedar Rachpal Singh, guilty of religious misconduct. They asked him to appear before the Takht on Saturday [14 February] to explain his conduct. Mr Rachpal Singh said in Delhi that his party would decide about the response to the summons at its meeting on Friday.

Punjab Governor Wants 'Terrorists' Excommunicated*BK111255 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Feb 87*

[Text] The Punjab governor, Mr Sidharta Shankar Roy, has called for the excommunication of terrorists in the state. In a statement in Chandigarh he condemned the killing of Dr Manjit Singh Mangat, son of an inspector general of police. Three hard-core terrorists were arrested in Moga subdivision last night.

'Terrorists' Rob Punjab Bank; Officials Alerted

BK120850 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 12 Feb 87

[Text] In Punjab today, terrorists looted 5 crore 70 lakh rupees from the industrial area branch of the Punjab National Bank in Ludhiana.

According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh about 15 gunmen armed with automatic weapons and some of them in police uniforms came to the bank.

They disarmed the sentries on duty on the plea of checking their arms. The gunmen locked the sentries in a room along with other staff members and took away the money from the strong room and escaped.

Senior police officials have gone to the spot and paramilitary forces have been alerted all over Punjab.

Leader of 6 Terrorist Groups Arrested in Punjab

BK091245 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1230 GMT 9 Feb 87

[Text] A dreaded terrorist, Aroor Singh, was arrested by the Amritsar police today. There was a reward of 100,000 rupees for his arrest. According to an official spokesman, Aroor Singh was the leader of six different terrorist groups. He was the brain behind the killing of 24 bus passengers in Hoshiarpur District in November.

'Two More Terrorists' Arrested

BK110315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Two more terrorists, Ranjit Singh Rana of Gurdaspur District and Gurcharaz Singh of Ferozepore District, have been arrested last night. According to the police chief, Mr Ribeiro, they were arrested during a raid on their hideout. Some arms and ammunition were recovered from them. Mr Ribeiro said the two arrested were wanted on a number of terrorist activities.

Junejo Says Next Afghan Talks 'Very Crucial'

*BK121533 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 12 Feb 87*

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has said the next round of Geneva talks on Afghanistan will be very crucial for the settlement of the Afghanistan problem. Talking to newsmen at the airport on his arrival in Lahore this evening, he said Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan has recently visited Moscow in this connection.

Answering a question about relations with India, Mohammad Khan Junejo said the tension which had built up on the borders has now eased.

Later, a Lahore High Court Bar Association delegation, led by its president Raja Afrasyab Khan, called on the prime minister in Lahore this evening. The bar president assured the prime minister that the lawyers will extend their fullest cooperation to the government in its efforts to consolidate democracy and to establish Islamic system in the country. The delegation apprised the prime minister of the problems of the lawyers. Punjab Governor Makhdoom Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi was also present on the occasion.

Minutes Signed on Increased Trade With Bangladesh

*BK111649 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Feb 87*

[Text] Pakistan and Bangladesh have reaffirmed their desire to increase bilateral trade. This was conveyed in the agreed minutes signed at the sixth session of the Pakistan-Bangladesh joint committee on trade by heads of the two delegations in Islamabad today. They also agreed to take appropriate steps to remove obstacles to the promotion of trade. During the talks, Bangladesh offered to increase export of various items to Pakistan.

Spokesman on Indian Border Troop Pullout

*BK111549 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Feb 87*

[Text] The pullout of Indian and Pakistani forces from Ravi-Chenab corridor started today and it will be completed by the 19th of this month.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad that the program of gradual pullout has been worked out through telephone contact between the directors general of military operations of India and Pakistan in the light of agreement between them which provides for the return of all offensive and defensive forces of the two countries to their peace-time locations.

The spokesman said that assistant chiefs of air staff of India and Pakistan are now in contact with each other to de-activate their satellite airfields in the area.

Replying to a question, the spokesman said that Pakistan is awaiting India's response for the next secretary-level meeting in Islamabad. It will be held during this month to discuss similar pullout of troops from other sectors along the Pakistan-India border. At this meeting, the two sides are expected to reach a concrete agreement on the pullout of troops from other sectors.

In reply to another question, the spokesman said that Pakistan has made defense arrangements in the region from where the troops are being withdrawn and India is well aware of it. The spokesman said the Indian military exercise "Brass Tack" will end in Rajasthan next month. Therefore, the question of withdrawing forces [from Rajasthan] does not arise until that time.

In reply to still another question, he said that Pakistan hopes that the two countries will make arrangements some time in the future through dialogue so as to prevent a recurrence of misunderstanding between them.

Spokesman Affirms Peaceful Nuclear Program

*BK111625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 11 Feb 87*

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan's nuclear program is of a peaceful nature and this fact has been proved during the last 6 or 7 years. Pakistan has not carried out any nuclear explosion, nor does it have any such intention.

The spokesman said that Pakistan understands there will be no string attached to the 1987-93 U.S. package aid agreement. This agreement will be presented to the U.S. Congress by the end of this month.

In reply to a question, the spokesman refuted reports that France is now ready to fulfill its commitment to set up a reprocessing plant. The spokesman said that Pakistan and France have held dialogue on paying compensation for violating the agreement to install a reprocessing plant in Pakistan. But there has been no progress in this regard.

Pakistan is in touch with more than 100 countries which have set up nuclear reactors for power generation, and it is ready to accept the control and safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In reply to another question, the spokesman said that Pakistan has not invited the Afghan refugees, nor is it preventing anyone from returning home. This is merely propaganda against Pakistan which has been rejected by the entire world.

Khamene'i Speaks on Revolution Anniversary
LD111434 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
 0927 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Speech by President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran's Azadi Square on the eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution on 11 February — recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Today is 11 February, which is certainly one of the most historical dates and a great and proud turning point in the history of our nation. On an international scale too, it marks one of the critical events in the history of the world. History will no doubt record 11 February 1979 as an event that changed the fate of mankind at a particular point in time. On this day 3 years ago the people of Tehran and other cities throughout the country witnessed a great transformation the like of which has never been known in our history.

Certainly, after conversion to Islam and after our hearts became familiar with the Koran and the melody of monotheism, no other event has taken place in the history of our nation that is more blessed and more auspicious than the events of 11 February 1979. [passage omitted]

We had not yet celebrated the second anniversary of the revolution when the imposed war started and an extensive attack was launched on us across our borders. Our unprepared military forces, our unused weapons and equipment, our unfamiliar equipment and, in brief, our complete lack of preparedness to defend ourselves against that invasion imposed a great difficulty upon this people. In the 6 and 1/2 years since the start of the revolution we have faced many different kinds of difficulties from the counterrevolutionaries, from the great powers, and from others who did not want the revolution to succeed. [passage omitted]

Naturally, were it not for the war and for all those acts of sabotage, the officials of the Islamic Republic would have found the opportunity to start the great reconstruction of this country and this nation. Certainly we would have been able to take greater steps in various sectors, in industry, in agriculture, and in other constructive projects. Instead, people's enthusiasm, money, willpower, youth, and strength were used to defend the revolution; and the greatest effort made in the past 8 years has been to defend this holy revolution and this great, unique, historical gain of our nation and of Islamic nations. [passage omitted]

However, on the opposite side, there is another page that contains the happy experience of this nation. The greatest source of happiness for this nation after the revolution is that this nation with its willpower, its strength of faith, and its general motivation succeeded in toppling a tyrannical, cruel, anti-human and oppressive regime and replaced it with a popular, Islamic order of its own making. The nation took the reins of its destiny and the administration of the country into its own hands. This was the greatest victory of this nation. [passage omitted]

The revolution some hoped to destroy or to nip in the bud has today become a great symbol for the nations of the world. Not only is it strong, secure, powerful, and successful in performing

great work inside its territory and in the world, it has taught a lesson to other nations and has forced tyrannical governments to watch their step and to be careful not to act against the aspirations, feelings, and Islamic beliefs of their own people. Thus, they cannot act overtly and openly against them and they have stopped doing so. This was another victory and success for our nation. [passage omitted] [passage indistinct]

The environment is now an Islamic environment, not the environment of Western culture. It is a healthy environment. Parents are no longer worried about the morals of their children. In the past, parents constantly worried how their youths would grow and live in that corrupt atmosphere. However, today it is the youths who are teaching and guiding their parents. Our young generation should be recognized in the world as a most vital young generation, one worthy of this position and status. Nowhere in the world can you see young people like those in our country who are organizing the battlefronts and the fronts of self-sufficiency and creativity. This is a great gain and achievement of our nation.

Regarding political independence, today this country rules on the international scene, whereas in the past foreigners dictated policies to the shah and prime minister. Its policies, stances, and political wishes and directions are regarded as reputable stances and are taken into account by nations, governments, and political circles. This is another great gain in the political field. [passage omitted]

One of the greatest joys and victories of our nation in the past 8 years has been that, no matter what has been done against this nation by the enemies of the revolution — namely, world arrogance — every plot hatched by them has been completely defeated as the result of the efforts of this people. Our people feel very proud and victorious in their struggles against world arrogance. [passage omitted]

In the future, with strong hands, a strong heart, and through the strength of determination and willpower, we shall be a great spiritual power in the region and throughout the world; and inside the country we shall be able to carry out reconstruction work.

God willing, we shall bring this war to an end with victory, decisively and through the power and greatness of Islam. We shall force the enemy to retreat. We shall defeat the enemy; and the defeat of Iraq in this war is the defeat of world arrogance and all who are against the revolution and Islam. Clearly and most decisively I see that our nation will rub the faces of America and other powers in the dust through your determination, persistence, and courage. [cries of approval from crowd]

Of course, we have some shortcomings in our daily and social life. However, through the determination of the people, through innovation, inventiveness, good management, solidarity, kindness, courage, and self-sacrifice — and our nation is richly endowed with all these qualities — we shall eliminate these difficulties. We shall create a prosperous Iran, a country filled with abundance and blessings, a country that will be the embodiment of true Islamic living. We shall show it to the world and say: This is the result of a Koranic and Islamic revolution. [cries of approval from crowd]

However, the most important issue facing us today is the war. Before we are able to make plans for the future we must see to today. Our future depends on the present. Our nation will be able to build its future only if it can prove its strength. If we, the Iranian nation, cannot prove our strength, courage, and ability, then you should know that the East and West will have no mercy on us.

World politics are based on force, on strength. We do not bully the weak. We behave with humility and modesty toward other nations. However, when confronted by bullying, powerful people of the world, those who have no other logic except force and coercion, we are forced — on the basis of the Koran and Islam — to declare and express our strength, and we will do so. Our nation should understand this. [passage omitted]

We have announced the punishment of the aggressor as one of the principles; and we announce again that the aggressor should be punished. If the aggressor is punished here, at least in our region, this aggression will not be repeated. In other parts of the world they may also learn a lesson from it. [cries of approval from crowd] [passage omitted]

Punishment of the aggressor is not merely an empty slogan; it is not a mere whim that we have decided to punish Saddam. The issue is one of principle — revolutionary and Islamic principle. [passage omitted] [Further aircraft noise is heard. Khamene'i says: These helicopters are making too many flights, tell them that they have taken enough pictures; it is enough. A studio announcer says: The situation in Tehran is normal and we continue the programs of the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Khamene'i thereupon resumes his speech]

America, the Soviet Union, and the world should know that trying to defend Saddam is useless. The Ba'thist-'Aflaqi regime of Iraq must go; and they should entertain no doubt that it will go. The question of Iraq after the present regime is something which concerns the Iraqi people; it is not something that concerns powers and superpowers.

That is my advice to big powers which might have an ear to listen; although I do not think that the Americans can listen to advice. Proof of this is that in their experiences and exchanges with the Iranian people they were unable to understand the facts. They could not understand that animosity and hostility toward these people will not have a good outcome for them, and that their evil deeds will rebound on them. They have not been able to hear. [short break in transmission]

They should not continue supporting the faltering regime of Saddam. It is not in their long-term interest in Iraq or Iran. The Saddam regime will go. They should learn a lesson from America's experience with Iran. Look at the hostility our nation feels towards America. [short break in transmission]

Thus, despite all the insistence by the U.S. leadership that it wants to establish relations with our country, our nation pays no attention, has no confidence, feels hatred, and does not accept such friendly relations with America. Why — because the nation does not forget the past. Nations are not forgetful.

The U.S. Government is now looking for moderate elements within our country's governing body to use — in its imagination — those moderate elements as a means for renewing contact. It keeps setting up mediators. First of all, they are mistaken; generally speaking there are no moderates among our country's officials; there are no hawks, doves, or moderates. There is only one path, the path of Islam, the line of the imam and the great movement of the people. This is the position of all the officials of the Islamic Republic. All the officials think alike concerning the basic issues of the country. There are no hawks, doves, or moderates, so they are mistaken.

In the second place, even if there were moderate elements among the officials and administrators who wanted, or who were prepared or willing to establish friendly relations with America, would the people ever have allowed such a thing? Would this nation permit such a thing? They should satisfy the nation. They should win the hearts of the nation. That can be done only if they stop their hostility, their enmity, and their hatred, and do not show so much opposition to this nation. If they do not show hostility and animosity toward this nation, if they do not renege on their commitments, then over many years it is possible that the views of these people concerning the leaders of the U.S. regime might gradually change. Today, however, this nation, following and supporting its beloved imam, decisively, strongly, and realistically still regards America as the great satan and as its greatest enemy and still chants the slogan "Death to America". [cries of approval from crowd]

This, in itself, is an experience. The United States engaged in acts of hostility against our people. It made friends with the enemies of our people and supported them, and is still continuing to do so. It stood alongside and defended the former corrupt regime until its last dying breath. Our people do not forget these things.

Do those nations assisting Iraq today wish the Iraqi people to treat them tomorrow the same way they are treating the United States today? Do they wish to be hated by the Iraqi nation? Do the Soviet Union, France, and other countries and governments flooding Iraq with their weapons, want the Iraqi people on their side in the future? Do they want nothing to do with the nation of Iraq? If they continue to stand alongside the current Iraqi regime until the end, until its collapse — which God willing will not be too far away — will they be forgiven by the Iraqi nation? Will the Iraqi nation forgive these governments who have supported its enemy until the end? What makes them so certain they will be able to continue the flood of weapons to Iraq? Will they be able to recover the price of these weapons? What is making them so sure?

Even if a future regime in Iraq intends to compromise with the enemies of the nation of Iraq and the present friends of Saddam and the 'Aflaqi regime, the people of Iraq would not allow it. Will the nation of Iran, which struggled so much, gave so many martyrs, and bore the brunt, ever allow the friends of Saddam and his supporters to continue their life in this region, to make investments and reap the profit?

The proper solution for them is to stop supporting Iraq. This nation will not give up. With divine succor and the assistance of

Almighty God, this nation will not give up until it forces Saddam to breathe his last breath. [cries of approval from crowd]

I end my speech now by saying: Our unity will lead to our future victory. We have put up with hardship in the past and have overcome it. We shall have more hardship in the future and we shall rise above it again, with more experience and greater might. Previously, we experienced hardship for the first time and without knowing how to tolerate it. Today, however, our nation is experienced and battle-hardened. Today, our youths can analyze events. The popular forces are at work in every area of life.

Our main problem today is the war. We must succeed in this war and end it victoriously for the sake of our future prosperity, our country's reconstruction, future national prestige, the honor of Iran and the Islamic Republic, and for making this republic an example for other Muslim nations to follow. [cries of approval from crowd]

We have achieved great victories since last year's revolution ceremonies when I spoke to you, dear ones, on this day in the same square. First there were the Val-fajr operations and now we have Karbala'-5 operations. With Almighty God's succor, greater triumphs are to come in the Karbala'-5 operations.

We are not going to stop inflicting blows on the enemy. The huge public mobilization, the 100,000-strong Muhammad Corps, the 100,000-strong Mahdi Corps, and many more troops are always ready and able to go to the battlefields; the trained forces and the selfless warriors are all ready to end the war once and for all. Our military commanders, our brothers in the corps and the Army, should make use of this huge popular mobilization — which I am certain they are doing — and we will inflict the final blow on Saddam.

However, we are not announcing the time of the final blow, just as we have not declared it since the beginning.

In any case, our blows will not stop. They will, with Almighty God's succor, be inflicted on the defeated forces of the Iraqi regime in the battlefields. I hope that before the next celebrations of 11 February, before our next gathering to mark the revolution anniversary, we shall celebrate the victory of the Iranian nation in the imposed war. It will not be a victory against the Iraqi regime alone, rather, it will be a victory against conspiracies of global arrogance. God willing, we shall celebrate that victory with all the dear nation of Iran. [cries of approval from crowd]

O God, grant a speedy victory to Islam against global arrogance; grant the forces of Islam a decisive victory; terminate this war with full victory of the combatants of Islam and the nation of Islam. [passage omitted]. O God, for the sake of Muhammad and his scion, grant us success in carrying out our daily Islamic duties in our society; safeguard this glorious and great unity of our nation; for the sake of Muhammad and his scion, protect and keep healthy our dear imam, who is our father, our aim, our leader, the beloved guide of our nation, and the heart of this revolution. O God, grant success to those who are serving; grant patience and full reward to honorable families of the martyrs, the martyrs of the war, the martyrs of the revolution, and the martyrs of the bombings.

May God's peace, mercy and blessings be upon you all.

'Massive' Rallies Mark Anniversary

LD111153 Tehran IRNA in English 1142 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — Millions of revolutionary and Muslim people of Iran poured into the streets throughout the country Wednesday morning to mark the eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution's victory.

The massive rallies held today were reminiscent of those held on the mourning days of Tasu'a and Ashura (before the 1979 victory of the revolution) and of the magnificent Qods Day march in Tehran and elsewhere in the country last year despite warnings by the Baghdad regime that it would attack demonstrating people.

Islamic Iran's skies today witnessed clenched fists of a people who have been fighting an aggressor enemy for over six years and who are going to inflict the 'final blow' on the enemy very soon.

The Bahman 22nd (Feb 11) rallies in Iran today displayed the nation's great power for elevation of the cause of Allah.

The world today once again witnessed that Iran's Islamic nation will never be affected by Iraqi bombing of their houses, mosques, hospitals, and schools but that instead they have become more determined than ever in their holy defence.

In Tehran the response of the revolutionary people to an attempted Iraqi air raid were shouts of "Allah-o-Akbar", "Death to America", and "Death to Saddam", coupled with roars of anti-aircraft guns, which once again demonstrated the Iranian nation's heroic resistance. As soon as the red alert sired was sounded in the capital at 07:00 GMT, the loud shouts of "Ya Hussein" and "We are here for martyrdom" shook the city. The anti-aircraft guns stationed around the Azadi Square also prevented any action by intruding enemy planes.

Several million Tehranis today marched towards the Azadi Square, the same place where they accorded an unprecedented welcome to their spiritual leader Imam Khomeyni eight years ago.

The huge group of demonstrators, with members of the ulema leading them, included mothers with their small kids, and shouted "War, war, till victory."

The Bahman 22nd ceremonies at Azadi Square were attended by foreign guests here on the occasion of the Ten-Day-Dawn celebrations as well as a number of the country's political, military, and religious officials.

In an opening speech, one of the foreign guests spoke to the crowd congratulating [them on] the eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution. He said the Islamic Revolution in Iran was an honor for world Muslims. He expressed hope that the Islamic Revolution will triumph everywhere in the world, from Palestine to the remotest corners of the globe. Later a resolution in ten points was read.

Another moving scene during the massive rally in Tehran, was the participation of the war wounded and disabled combatants in the march, some in wheelchairs or on crutches. Meanwhile, the people's donations to the war fronts at the centers set up to this end, was a surprise to foreign reporters attending the ceremonies.

Also speaking at the ceremony was President 'Ali Khamene'i. Excerpts of his remarks will be carried separately.

Similar ceremonies were held in other Iranian cities and towns, including those which have been subjected to repeated enemy air and missile attacks. Bakhtaran was one of them, a city which has been bombed by Iraqi planes 36 times in four months. Some of the people in Bakhtaran wore shrouds thus announcing their preparedness to be martyred.

In Hamadan, as the people were demonstrating, a group of 450 Iraqi POW's taken captive in the course of the victorious Karbala'-5 operations near Iraqi port city of Basra, arrived in the city in 16 buses. They were given a ride in the city streets where they were welcomed by people shouting "War, war, till victory", "Death to the U.S.", and "Death to the USSR".

The people also rejected peace proposals by the so-called international organisations and condemned the support of the superpowers for the Baghdad regime.

The Iraqi POW's also chanted slogans against the Ba'thist regime in Baghdad and expressed hatred of criminal Saddam.

Resolution Vows Continued Fight

LD111453 Tehran IRNA in English 1429 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — Millions of marchers participating in a rally in the capital Wednesday vowed not to abandon their fight with global arrogance. They also warned foreign powers equipping Iraq with arms to discontinue their aid to Baghdad, otherwise, their interests across the world would be endangered.

In a resolution read at the end of the rally which marked the eighth anniversary of the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, the marchers promised to continue their fight with arrogant powers by mass manning the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war, despite futile efforts by the U.S., the Soviet Union, and France.

The resolution also vowed that the Iranian people will continue to stand firmly against the U.S., which it described as the head of world tyrants and against the Soviet Union and France whose arms to Iraq are maintaining the Ba'thist regime in power. The marchers said they will break the neck of any bully.

The marchers also promised to avenge the blood of breast-feeding infants and other innocent children and people, martyred in the "savage" Iraqi air raids on Iranian cities. They also called on Iran's Muslim combatants to continue their victorious operations against Ba'thist troops in order to take the last breath of Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn.

The resolution also reiterated the Iranian people's allegiance to the leader of the Islamic Revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeyni, to future spiritual leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri, and to dedicated combatant theologians.

It also pledged the Iranian people's support for freedom movements throughout the world especially those in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and in Palestine which are inspired by the Islamic Revolution in their fight with Satanic powers.

Majlis Speaker Marks Anniversary

LD111845 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] The concluding ceremonies marking the anniversary of the 10 Days of Dawn of the Islamic Revolution were held in Tehran Laleh Hotel in the presence of Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani; Minister of Islamic Guidance Khatami; and foreign guests attending the 10 Days of Dawn celebration this afternoon.

According to a report by the Central News Unit correspondent, in a speech welcoming the foreign guests, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the auspicious march carried out by our country's people everywhere and said: You yourselves have witnessed and seen for yourselves today how Islam has been able to mobilize our nation and people, and you have fully sensed our people's loyalty and resistance under the protection of Islam.

Continuing his speech, the Majlis speaker referred to the true power of Muslims under the aegis of Islamic tenets and added: One of the superpowers' filthy plots has been to portray religion as a relationship between one and his God, and with this plot they have given Islam a marginal place in the life of the people in Muslim countries. More than anything else, what has turned world arrogance against us is this genuine presence of Islam and Islamic teachings in the life of our people; this is the very reason we are facing the opposition of world arrogance. He added: All this pressure brought to bear on us is aimed at preventing Iran from being understood as it is in the world.

He then referred to the bestial air raids carried out by the Iraqi Ba'thist Zionist regime, which foreign guests also witnessed this morning, and said: These raids demonstrate the assets Muslims enjoy, and constitute a huge might which has terrified them [Iraqi Ba'thists]. These acts of resistance are taking place throughout the world and are arousing the Muslims' anger, whether in Lebanon, Iran, or in other countries.

Continuing, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: The victories we scored in the Karbala'-5 offensive — despite all the backing rendered by world arrogance to Iraq — were solely thanks to the power of Islam. If Muslims were to wage war against Israel using the power given them by Islam, Israel would not be able to last even 3 days! And if Muslims throughout the world were to enter into war against Israel armed with such morale, blasphemy would undoubtedly be defeated!

Continuing his speech, he then referred to the United States of America's disgraceful adventure and McFarlane's problem, and

said: All these things stem from the power of Islam. Even a few days ago these people once again contacted us through a person who fully revealed his identity and gave us a telephone number, saying: "With this telephone number you can directly speak to Mr Reagan!" All this superpower's helplessness is caused by the people's resistance and the lofty teachings of Islam!

He then referred to the exalted position of martyrs and their fruitful achievements and said: A society that attains perfection in giving martyrs no longer has any fear of being killed along the path of God. During the first year of the war, had we mobilized a 100,000-strong army we would have most certainly failed. But now, thanks to our martyrs' achievements, if we want to mobilize any army either 500- or 1 million-strong we can most certainly do so.

Addressing foreign guests, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani said: If you had an opportunity to see the whole world, you would see that we have in our possession a vast country and immense natural resources, so much so that even if we had a population of 200 million we could still meet their needs. While we have no need whatsoever for even a single span of Iraqi soil, as long as Saddam remains we will not return any part of Iraqi soil we capture. However, after victory and the downfall of Saddam, we will join the Iraqi people in the task of reconstruction; Iraqi cities are like our own cities.

He added: We will not enter into war against any country. We think that once we have made Islam known, Muslims will traverse their own road and Iran will become a model; and once the people desire it, the governments, too, will surrender.

He said: At present we have a great deal of equipment at our disposal, and, as far as we can, we will meet our arms needs by manufacturing them within the country. But should we have need of certain small things, we will secure them from the free market. The only condition is that we will not purchase anything from Israel or South Africa. Even if our war were to suffer defeat, we would not be prepared to buy anything from Israel or South Africa; and all this support for Iraq stems from the fact that a defeat by the Iraqi Ba'th Party would be the prelude to the defeat of Likud in Israel.

In conclusion, Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani once again emphasized the Koranic might of Islam and the power of Muslims under the protection of the Koran, and advised the guests: In your countries and in your lives, please follow Islam and the glory of Muslims. Even if you were to be defeated, along the path of God and carrying out your duties, it would be a superficial defeat!

Further Details

LD120932 Tehran IRNA in English 0915 GMT 12 Feb 87

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb 12, IRNA — Majlis Speaker Mojtahed Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani categorically denied here Wednesday rumors that Iran had penetrated Iraqi territory and disturbed security in that country.

Addressing the visiting foreign guests who attended ceremonies marking the eighth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution,

Rafsanjani said that Iran was a vast country with rich natural resources which could meet the needs of a population of 200 million. Moreover, he stressed, the Islamic Republic of Iran did not consider itself separate from the Iraqi people, adding that when an Islamic rule is established in Iraq, Baghdad and Tehran would not be different and alienated from each other. [passage omitted]

Repentant Iraqi POW's are being treated as Iranian children and homeless Iraqi people are taken care [of] the same as Iranian people themselves, the speaker said.

Rafsanjani who is also Imam Khomeyni's representative to the Supreme Defence Council described the McFarlane affair in Iran as a great political victory for the Islamic Republic, adding that in this affair the United States was once again tested. [passage omitted]

McFarlane and his group who entered Iran with forged passports told Iranian officials they would stay here as Iran's hostages and in return demanded the release of American hostages in Lebanon, Rafsanjani said. "We told them we are not taking hostages and this is not the task of a government or our policy. If you are our friends we will intercede and if you are our enemies we will not do so and this is our right."

Referring to the situation of Muslims in other countries, the Majlis speaker said that in Africa, Asia, Europe, and even big and developed countries Muslims are present, but, true Islam is absent. The reason, he added, is because of the West's wrong interpretation of Islam. [passage omitted]

Rafsanjani referred to the Iraqi bombardment of hospitals and residential areas in Iran on Wednesday and stressed that Islam can confront the most powerful forces in the world, a small example was Lebanon.

The Majlis speaker said that Iran's fighting in the war fronts was a war between international blasphemy and the Islamic movement, adding that Iran was not confronting only Iraq but the Soviet Union, the United States, France, Italy, and Brazil which provided Iraq with needed arms and Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and others which supplied the Baghdad regime financially.

Speaker Rafsanjani said that the world witnessed resistance of the Iranian people on the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. He stressed that the invulnerable morale and perseverance of the Iranian people had scared international arrogance.

Khamene'i Receives Afghan Opposition Groups

LD111515 Tehran IRNA in English 1444 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i said here Monday that the Islamic Republic considers the issue of Afghanistan as its own issue and regards the victory of the Afghan Muslim people as its own triumph and therefore cannot be indifferent to the matter. The president made the remark in a meeting with leaders of eight Afghan Muslim opposition groups as well as Afghan refugees residing in Iran here.

Khamene'i said that the prospect for the struggle of Muslim Afghan people is bright, which he attributed to their deep faith in Islam. He noted that when people who believe in the Almighty God fight for the cause of Islam they will certainly gain victory.

The need for Muslim Afghan strugglers to maintain their unity is felt more today than ever before, and Afghan mujahidin should try to further consolidate their solidarity in the fight with their enemies, Khamene'i said.

In response, the leaders of the Afghan opposition factions vowed that they would continue their just struggle until they obtain their denied rights by forming unified fronts of all Muslim Afghan groups.

Karbala' 5 Destroyed 56 Percent of Iraqi Army
LD111458 Tehran IRNA in English 1433 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Esfahan, Feb 11, IRNA — According to military estimates 56 percent of the Iraqi Army was destroyed in the course of [the] Karbala'-5 offensive launched by Iranian combatants against the enemy on 9 January, said Deputy Commander of Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guard Corps (IRGC) Rahim Safavi here Tuesday.

Safavi compared east of Basra with a marshland for the Iraqi troops and said any movement of the enemy in this region brings them closer to final annihilation.

The deputy commander said that Iraqi troops are now stationed in an area where because of destruction of their strongholds by Iranian forces, resistance of retreat is impossible for them.

Further on Combat Operations, 'Fath-4'

Iraqis Bomb Shushtar 11 Feb
LD111412 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1334 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] Dear listeners, please pay attention! The Central News Unit reports that on the anniversary of the glorious victory of the Islamic Revolution, the heroic and revolutionary people of Shushtar were staging an extensive and unprecedented march amid slogans: War, war until victory! Death to America! Death to Saddam! This was to renew their pledge to the imam of the nation and the combatants of Islam to continue their sacred defense until the overthrow of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

The Iraqi mercenaries, who were angered by the revolutionary presence of the Shushtar people, at 1229 today carried out dastardly bombing raids on the town's residential areas and martyred or injured a number of people. The Central News Unit correspondent adds in this report that the moral of the people of Shushtar is at an unprecedented level.

Iraqi Raids Martyr Civilians

LD111755 Tehran IRNA in English 1634 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — A group of civilians were martyred and wounded in the latest Iraqi air raids on the Iranian cities of Esfahan, Shushtar (Khuzestan Province), Mianeh and Maragheh (east Azarbaijan Province) and Bakhtaran Wednesday afternoon. Several houses were destroyed and some cars damaged in the Iraqi air attacks. [A report broadcast by Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 1630 GMT on 11 February adds the cities of Qom, Marivan, and Eslamabad to those bombed by Iraqi aircraft this afternoon]

Iraqi warplanes, flying at a high altitude, also violated the airspace of Tehran three times Wednesday but failed to carry out any bombing mission because of heavy Iranian anti-aircraft fire.

Fath-4 Operations Kill 1,000 Iraqis

LD111543 Tehran IRNA in English 1536 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — One thousand Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and many others captured in the Iranian Fath-4 operations launched 70 kms deep inside Iraqi territory early Wednesday. 50 Iraqi military bases were also destroyed in the operations, reported Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters Wednesday.

The Muslim forces attacked 'Khalifan' garrison in the Iraqi city of Diyanah, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on enemy troops in the guerrilla operations.

A special brigade of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) under the command of Ramadan headquarters and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) launched the Fath-4 assault, codenamed "Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah," at 03:00 hours local time Wednesday (11:30 GMT Tuesday).

A base on an Iraqi battalion was stormed and all Iraqi troops stationed in it killed in the surprise attack launched in [an] area of 300 square kms, 70 kms inside Iraqi territory.

Six Iraqi tanks were destroyed by artillery fire of the Muslim combatants, Khatam ol-Anbiya', the joint IRGC-Army headquarters concluded.

Communique Issued on Offensive

LD111923 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Communique issued by Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters on 11 February on launch of "Fath-4" offensive]

[Text] At 0300 this morning the mighty combatants of Islam, simultaneous with the joyous occasion of the 10 Days of Dawn and the blessed 11 February began the partisan "Fath-4" operations under the codename "Ya Allah!" in an area of 300 square kilometers, and penetrating 70 km inside Iraqi territory, succeeded in inflicting heavy losses and blows on the enemy. During

these operations, forces under the command of the Ramadan headquarters, center for the irregular operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps' ground forces, composed of the Special Guards Brigade and in cooperation with forces belonging to the Patriotic Union Iraqi Kurdistan, succeeded in completely destroying the radar installations at Irbil, situated on the 2,126 Kurak height, which was one of the important aircraft control, eavesdropping, monitoring and radio jamming centers. Also, the position of one Iraqi battalion of Khalifan garrison in Diyanah was attacked by our forces. This battalion's troops were either killed or wounded. Several tanks and personnel carriers and tens of Iraqi military vehicles were destroyed.

One battalion of the enemy's forces in the general area of Diyanah was also destroyed by Islam's forces. During these operations, the (Papushtiyani) post in the north of Rawanduz was subjected to heavy fire by the combatants of Islam and was set ablaze. All of its equipment and armour was destroyed.

The link bridge between the city of Rawanduz and the outpost of this city was destroyed, causing this outpost to be cut off from the city. With the execution of heavy fire on sensitive areas of the V Iraqi Army Corps in the Rawanduz region, on the command base of the 23 Iraqi Army Division, and on one of the tactical headquarters of the 5th Iraqi Army Division, the combatants of Islam succeeded in killing a number of enemy troops including high-ranking commanders and officers of the Iraqi Army. In guerrilla operations over an area of 300 square kilometers, our forces completely destroyed more than 50 enemy bases responsible for protecting the communications axes, roads, and the heights in the region, and killed the troops stationed in them. During these operations, more than 1,000 enemy troops were killed and wounded, and a number were captured.

The unstinting cooperation and support provided by the Iraqi people to the combatants of Islam played an effective part in the victories achieved, and the Iraqi people welcomed the forces of Islam with open arms, and fully cooperated with them.

[Signed] Khatem ol-Anbiya' Headquarters

Missile Hits Baghdad

LD111903 Tehran IRNA in English 1855 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — An Iranian missile hit Baghdad at 21:00 hours local time (17:38 hours GMT) Wednesday. The missile attack follows warnings by Iran's War Information Headquarters to civilians in Baghdad for evacuating the city.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has vowed to retaliate [against] Iraqi attacks on residential quarters in Iran.

There is yet no report on the extent of damage and or casualties.

Iraqis Bomb Tehran Area 12 Feb

LD120857 Tehran IRNA in English 0845 GMT 12 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 12, IRNA — A residential area was bombed in Tehran by Iraqi planes at 10:15 local time (05:45 GMT)

Thursday, martyring and injuring a number of civilians. Two children are among the martyrs.

In this bombardment, a response to the massive demonstration of Tehran residents Wednesday marking the anniversary of the revolution, a number of homes and an automobile repair shop were damaged.

Several Killed in Tabriz Bombing

LD120928 Tehran IRNA in English 0920 GMT 12 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 12, IRNA — Several civilians were martyred in the Iraqi bombardment of residential quarters of the northwestern city of Tabriz, early Thursday morning. The latest Iraqi bombardment of Tabriz injured scores of others and destroyed several homes.

Meanwhile, the invading Iraqi fighter planes broke [the] sound barrier of the holy city of Qom early hours Thursday morning. The Iraqi jet fighters which intended to violate Tehran's airspace were intercepted.

In the Iraqi air attack on Borujerd, Lorestan Province, Wednesday, parts of Imam Sadeq (A.S.) school were damaged. Iraqi planes attacked the city while a large number of people had taken part in the revolution's victory anniversary march.

Communique No 2,743

LD101650 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 10 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 10, IRNA — Iraqi forces sustained heavy casualties and losses throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Muslim combatants on Monday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 2,743 released by the Joint Staff Command of Iran's Armed Forces said that Iranian forces reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi forces in the northwestern fronts Monday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops.

A convoy of Iranian patrols infiltrated Iraqi positions in the northwestern fronts Monday seizing some Iraqi communication sets intact before returning safely to their bases.

In the western fronts on Monday, several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and a number of enemy bunkers destroyed by Iranian artillery fire.

Some Iraqi patrols attempting to infiltrate Iranian positions in the Western fronts Monday were forced to flee and sustained heavy casualties by the Iranian artillery fire.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and some enemy vehicles destroyed when Iranian combatants shelled enemy vehicle columns in Mehran, Badrah, and Jissan in the western fronts on Monday.

In the southern fronts, Iran's Muslim combatants in addition to fortifying their positions opened heavy fire on Iraqi positions on Monday, killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and destroying several enemy bunkers and observation posts.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected two cargo ships and oil tankers and four launches in the Strait of Hormuz Monday but allowed them to continue voyage after finding no suspected cargo aboard them.

Meanwhile Iranian Gendarmerie forces killed many Iraqi soldiers, destroyed several enemy bunkers and observation posts, and silenced enemy fire in parts of the southern and western fronts Monday, the communique concluded.

Communique No 2,744

LD111758 Tehran IRNA in English 1744 GMT 11 Feb 87

[Text] Tehran, Feb 11, IRNA — Scores of civilians were martyred and wounded in Iraqi bombing of the Iranian cities of Qom, Orumiyeh, Tabriz, Nahavand, Maragheh, Borujerd, Shushtar, Kuhdasht, and Esfahan on Wednesday. Iraqi forces also shelled residential areas of Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, Baneh, and Gilan-e Gharb on Wednesday, said a military communique here Wednesday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2,744 said that Iranian jet fighters heavily bombed Iraqi positions and troop concentration sites east of Basra two times Wednesday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops. The fighters returned safely to bases.

In retaliation for the renewed Iraqi air raids on residential areas in Iran, Iranian long range artillery fire started shelling key Iraqi military and industrial centers across the eastern Iraqi border Wednesday. Heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on the enemy in the Iranian reprisal artillery attack.

A large number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and three enemy vehicles, a fuel tanker truck, and a munitions dump destroyed throughout the fronts Tuesday as they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected a warship and nine cargo ships and oil tankers which were sailing under foreign flags in the Strait of Hormuz Tuesday, but since no suspicious goods were found, the ships were allowed to continue voyage.

Exchange of artillery and tank fire continued in the western fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in Mehran. In Qasr-e Shirin, Iraqi engineering operations were checked by Iranian artillery fire. Movements of Iraqi vehicle columns and redeployment of enemy troops were checked in Mandali Tuesday.

Iraqi forces sustained several casualties and enemy supply columns suffered damage when they were hit by heavy artillery fire of Iranian Muslim combatants in Shalamcheh, Zeydi, and Kushk, southern fronts, on Tuesday, the communique concluded.

IRGC, Iraqi Kurds Stage Offensive

*LD101724 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 10 Feb 87*

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced: The Peshmergas of the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan (PUIK) has carried out an offensive against an armored column of the Zionist Ba'thist enemy ruling Iraq which was moving along the Tuz Khurmatu-Qadir Karam highway in Kirkuk Province. While destroying an enemy armored car and 2 vehicles carrying Saddamist troops, our forces succeeded in killing 14 Iraqi mercenary troops, including an officer named Hamid Mahmud and an NCO named 'A'il (Kallub). Three others were captured.

The report, citing the Ramadan headquarters, the operational center of irregular operations of the Ground Forces of the IRGC, reads: A group of Peshmergas from the PUIK, in a recent rapid attack on 2 enemy bases situated 8 km from the city of Kirkuk, destroyed the said bases and killed large numbers of troops of the Zionist Ba'thist enemy and captured 11 Iraqi troops. During these operations the Peshmergas also succeeded in capturing large quantities of weapons and ammunition and also communication facilities of the Iraqi regime's forces.